

# Roundtables

A Publication of the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services

July 2010

From the Deputy Commissioner

## Keep pushing toward the goal

We have recently completed Phase II of the Kentucky Permanency Roundtables and once again, we have enjoyed some tremendous success in initiating plans toward permanency for many of our children.

We have achieved permanency for 22 children involving 18 cases. We have established new connections for 91 of our children. We have initiated new services for 95 of our children. We have 12 children with goal changes; eight of these children are already in a permanent home. We have 13 children who will be returning home soon. And we have 28 children with goal changes pending; 14 of these children are already in adoptive homes.

These successes on behalf of our children would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment and tireless efforts of our front-line staff, supervisors, regional management team, and central office staff. It has been a team effort that has truly made the difference in the lives of some of our children!

I hear the stories and read the e-mails that document these efforts and it makes me exceedingly proud of the work that each of you are doing each day on behalf of the many children and families that we serve across the Commonwealth.



Please accept my sincere appreciation to each of you for joining me in a commitment to give each of our children an opportunity for permanency and a permanent connection for a lifetime.

Many thanks and much appreciation,

Teresa James  
DCBS Deputy Commissioner

## Progress Report Kentucky Roundtables June 2010

Here's a look at an update of our achievements as of June 2010.

- Permanency Achieved for 18 cases involving 22 children
- New Connections have been made for 91 children
- New Services have begun for 95 children
- 12 children have had goal changes, eight of these children are in a permanent home
- 13 children have been identified as returning home soon
- 28 children have goal changes pending and 14 of these children are in an adoptive placement

### Are U P-OED?

Working with children and families requires us to be permanency oriented. Are you permanency oriented?

#### What is permanency?

Permanency is "the highest level of physical, legal and emotional safety and security that can be attained for attained for each individual child or youth within the context of a family relationship."

## Success Story

# Boy thriving with ‘new chance at life’

A 10-year-old child was removed from his mother at the age of 19 months due to severe neglect and physical abuse in the home by the mother and her boyfriends. He lived for many years with his grandmother until she passed away and then with an aunt who decided not to keep him because of his acting out behaviors.

He has had some sexually acting out behaviors and may have been sexually abused while in the home of his grandmother. Since his commitment in 2009, he has been in three Level 5 Psychiatric placements. He is currently at St. Joseph’s Children’s Home. All relative options have been explored, but none were willing or suitable for him.

During the roundtable meeting, a former BD teacher of his was identified by the worker as a resource for him.

The worker talked to the teacher/foster parent regarding the possibility of placement of this child with her, encouraged her continued involvement with his treatment, and expanded outings for them. The adoptive parent has completed her foster/adopt parent training. The PCC has been involved in the new plan and is very supportive.

This child and the adoptive parent went to the museum and her home at Christmas and had a recent overnight visit.

This child seems very happy with the new future plans and has made great improvements both in school and in his behaviors. He is no longer disruptive in class and his grades are going up.

The worker bought this child his guitar for Christmas and he was so excited when he saw it, he screamed out loud. (This was something the roundtable group all wished to happen for him!) The goal will be changed to adoption at the next APR. This very young boy appears to be thriving on his new chance at life and his previous teacher is very pleased at the possibility at providing him with his “forever home.”

## Tips

### Ask for help with problem solving

Don’t forget that the Casey Roundtable process is a team effort. When a case seems to be “stuck,” call upon your entire team to assist with problem-solving. Don’t ever be afraid to ask for assistance.

When the team seems unable to find a solution seek advice from community resources, teams or units who may specialize in working with children who have similar cases.

There are no bad ideas. If you have an idea but fear that it may not be possible, may never work or has been tried before, don’t stop. Talk to your team -- they may have a way to make it work. If you still can’t find a solution, contact Tina Hagenbuch or Kristin Krebs in Central Office to assist you.

Many individuals have had questions about the Michelle P. Waiver during follow-up calls. This website (<http://mhmr.ky.gov/mr/default.asp?sub2sub92>) is a great resource for gaining knowledge about the program and the resources available.

## Staff Spotlight

### Northern Bluegrass Region

This month Northern Bluegrass Region is being highlighted for their remarkable achievements and for the great efforts their staffs have put into their Casey Roundtable cases.

Of cases that were presented in Phase I:

- Two children have achieved permanency,
- Two children in which TPR has been completed, and the cases are moving to adoption, are both in adoptive homes,
- Four children are in the process of TPR, with three of those children in adoptive homes, and
- Two children are close to aging out and still trying to decide what they want, but both have very supportive people in their lives (foster parent and bio-parents), therefore will not be alone despite the decision they may make.

Thank you, Northern Bluegrass, for being diligent in seeking out concurrent/pre-adoptive homes for our children that are supportive and committed to them, and for your dedication and investment in your cases.

## Calendar

### Important Upcoming Dates

#### July 7-8:

Casey Roundtable Video Conference

#### Aug. 30-31:

“Kids Are Worth It” Conference, (Permanency Presentation)

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington

Visit Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky’s website for more information.

[http://www.pcaky.org/kids\\_are\\_worth\\_it.html](http://www.pcaky.org/kids_are_worth_it.html)